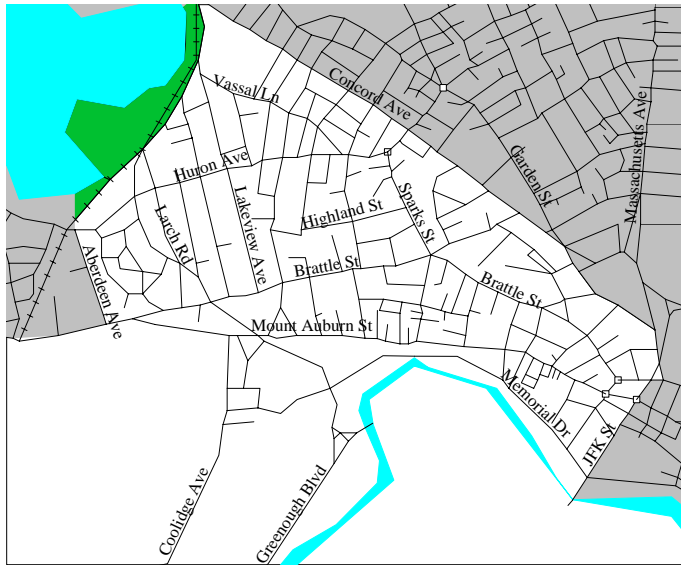
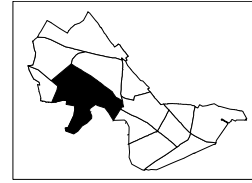


# NEIGHBORHOOD 10

## WEST CAMBRIDGE



**BOUNDARIES:** bounded by the Charles River, JFK Street, Garden Street, Concord Avenue, Fresh Pond, Aberdeen Avenue, and the Watertown line

**POPULATION:** 8,266 residents  
3,887 households

**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**  
\$54,656

Neighborhood #10 is encompassed by the patrol boundaries of Car 4 (2 officers) and Cars 10R and 13R (1-officer cars). It also includes walking routes 10A, 10B, 10C, and Harvard 16.

### COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1999 - 2003

CRIME	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Housebreaks	36	21	41	35	47
Street Robbery	3	7	10	14	9
Auto Theft	23	18	28	18	30
Larceny from MVs	56	61	33	51	53
Malicious Destruction	55	72	89	60	66
Drug Arrests	6	10	10	9	3

### 2003 YEAR END REVIEW

No sprees emerged among the nine **street robberies** in West Cambridge, although a majority of the incidents were in the Harvard Square area around the 1400 block of Massachusetts Avenue. • **Housebreaks** increased slightly in 2003 in the neighborhood. In nearly a quarter of the incidents, the doors of the residence were left unlocked. • There were small sprees of **malicious destruction of property** reported in the first four days of the year (likely a result of raucous New Year's celebrations) and mid-February along Aberdeen Avenue. • All three **drug arrests** were for possession with intent to distribute, including the arrest of a man smoking crystal meth in the restroom of the Harvard Co-op at 1400 Mass Ave. • Six of the 30 **auto thefts** in West Cambridge occurred on Mount Auburn St. A small spree resulted in four Honda Accords stolen on a single day in April. Nineteen of the 30 cars stolen in the neighborhood were eventually recovered. • The breaking of a window was the most common means of committing **larceny from a motor vehicle** in West Cambridge in 2003. Many of the incidents involved the theft of valuable items such as laptops and wallets left in the automobile, likely in plain sight. Fifteen of the 53 incidents took place on two of the neighborhood's major streets, Brattle and Mount Auburn.

## ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR WEST CAMBRIDGE AREA TARGET CRIMES

Crime	1981-1990	Rank '81-'90*	1991-2002	Rank '91-'02*	Rank 2003*
Housebreaks	105	4	38	8	5
Street Robbery	18	7	12	9	8
Auto Theft	105	6	39	10	8
Larceny from MVs	134	3	65	5	5
Malicious Destruction	92	8	75	9	9

\*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

West Cambridge is, geographically, the largest neighborhood in the city. Its east end contains a good portion of Harvard Square, bustling with commercial traffic; its western border is marked by Fresh Pond and Kingsley Park. In between are the beautiful homes of Brattle Street, the expansive Cambridge Cemetery, Mount Auburn Hospital, and half a dozen elementary schools.

*Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the eastern part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on Harvard University property.*

- Almost all of West Cambridge's target crimes are lower than average, its population is slightly higher than average.
- **Larceny from motor vehicles**, is concentrated in the area bordered by Sparks, Brattle, and Mount Auburn Street. The incidents occur primarily on weekends, late at night. The related crime of **malicious destruction** registers at average levels.
- **Housebreaks**, once a pressing problem, have been virtually eliminated. Summertime residential burglary patterns, once the scourge of West Cambridge, have not appeared for years. The 2001 total broke the trend of the lowest number of reported incidents over the past three decades.
- **Bicycle theft** patterns strike the Harvard Square area each spring and summer. The large number of bicycles parked in the area lead to high levels of theft. **Larcenies from Persons** become a problem every spring and summer around the Square and in its many commercial establishments.

